

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions of the claims and includes the following amendments as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) An umbilical cord clamp comprising:
 - a pair of arms each having a length in a generally V-shaped configuration having rear end portions associated at an apex and having free forward end portions normally disposed in spaced-apart relation and being movable towards each other for clamping an umbilical cord between the arms;
 - a flared portion at the end of each arm;
 - a grasping portion that is disposed on each arm transversely to the length thereof, which is distinct from the flared portion on that arm and which is sufficiently sized and shaped to extend a greater transverse distance than the flared portion to receive a finger or tool so as to facilitate grasping and closing of the clamp; and
 - a locking portion for securing the arms together when the clamp is closed.
2. (Original) The clamp of claim 1, wherein the rear end portions are joined by an integral hinge.
3. (Original) The clamp of claim 1, wherein the locking portion comprises:
 - a flexible tongue at the forward end of one of the arms that projects towards the other arm in the general direction of closing movement of the arm; and
 - a recess at the forward end of the other arm for receiving the tongue and having a pair of transversely-spaced projections extending into the recess from opposite sides thereof,wherein the tongue has a tip portion and the projections define a pair of forwardly sloping ramp surfaces engagable with the tip portion for flexing the tongue forwardly as the arms are urged together, the tongue having a pair of lateral notches adjacent the tip portion for receiving the pair of projections when the tip portion has cleared the ramp surfaces and the clamp is fully closed.
4. (Original) The clamp of claim 3, wherein the projections of the other arm have undersurfaces that slope forwardly and away from the one arm.
5. (Original) The clamp of claim 3, wherein the projections extend forwardly a distance greater than the thickness of the tongue, the projections extending forwardly through the notches beyond the tongue when the clamp is closed.

6. (Original) The clamp of claim 3, wherein the tip portion has rounded rear edges when viewed in transverse section.

7. (Original) The clamp of claim 3, wherein the recess opens forwardly and has a width greater than the width of the tongue, and wherein the sides of the recess are slidably engagable with the tongue for guiding the same into locking position as the clamp is closed.

8. (Previously Presented) The clamp of claim 1, wherein each grasping portion is disposed closer to the free end than the rear end up to about 80 percent of the distance from the rear end to the free end and comprises a single portion integrally formed with at least the arms of the clamp.

9. (Original) The clamp of claim 1, wherein each grasping portion is at least about two-thirds of the distance from the rear end portion to the free forward end.

10. (Original) The clamp of claim 1, wherein each grasping portion is outwardly concave so as to facilitate receiving the finger or tool being used to grasp the clamp.

11. (Original) The clamp of claim 1, wherein each grasping portion is at least 1.5 times as wide as a width of the arm and has a length of at least about 0.5 cm.

12-16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) An umbilical cord clamp comprising:
a pair of arms each having a length in a generally V-shaped configuration having rear end portions joined together at the apex thereof and having free forward end portions normally disposed in spaced-apart relation and being movable towards each other to clamp ~~for clamping~~ an umbilical cord between the arms;

identification means comprising a gender-identifying color associated with a portion of the clamp that is adapted and configured to facilitate identification of the gender of ~~the~~ a baby while the clamp remains on the baby's ~~cord stump~~ cord; and

a locking portion for securing the arms together when the clamp is closed on the baby's umbilical cord.

18. (Previously Presented) The clamp of claim 17, wherein the gender-identifying color includes blue for a boy and pink for a girl.

19. (Previously Presented) The clamp of claim 17, wherein the entire clamp comprises one or more shades of the color.

20. (Previously Presented) The clamp of claim 17, wherein the color is visibly imbued within or painted upon the clamp.

21. (Previously Presented) The clamp of claim 17, wherein the identification means further comprises an alpha-numeric indicia, security apparatus, or a bar code to inhibit or prevent unauthorized removal of the baby from a pre-defined area.

22. (Previously Presented) The clamp of claim 18, wherein a portion of the clamp is blue and the remainder is a neutral color for a boy and a portion of the clamp is pink and the remainder is a neutral color for a girl.

23. (Previously Presented) A method of identifying the gender of a newborn baby which comprises applying the clamp of claim 17 and visually analyzing the identification means to determine the gender of the baby.

24. (Previously Presented) A method of identifying a newborn baby which comprises applying the clamp of claim 21; and analyzing the identification means to determine the mother of the newborn so as to minimize the chance of misidentification of the baby or the mother thereof.

25. (Previously Presented) A method of inhibiting or preventing unauthorized removal of a newborn baby from a pre-defined area which comprises applying the clamp of claim 21; analyzing the identification means to determine at least the date and time of birth of the baby; and permitting only an authorized person to remove the baby from the pre-defined area.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The umbilical cord clamp of claim 1, further comprising:

~~a pair of arms each having a length in a generally V-shaped configuration having rear end portions joined together at the apex thereof and having free forward end portions~~

~~normally disposed in spaced-apart relation and being movable towards each other for clamping an umbilical cord between the arms;~~

a channel that extends substantially along the length of at least one arm and is open at the free end portion thereof to facilitate the escape of fluid therefrom when the clamp is closed; and

~~a locking portion for securing the arms together when the clamp is closed.~~

27. (Currently Amended) The clamp of claim 26, wherein the channel extends substantially along the length of each arm.

28. (Previously Presented) The clamp of claim 26, wherein the channel has a width of about 1/4 to 1/2 of a width of each arm.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~The clamp of claim 26,~~ An umbilical cord clamp comprising:

a pair of arms each having a length in a generally V-shaped configuration having rear end portions joined together at the apex thereof and having free forward end portions normally disposed in spaced-apart relation and being movable towards each other for clamping an umbilical cord between the arms;

a channel that extends substantially along the length of at least one arm and is open at the free end portion thereof to facilitate the escape of fluid therefrom when the clamp is closed and wherein the depth of the channel increases toward each open end; and

a locking portion for securing the arms together when the clamp is closed.

30. (Canceled).